

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Gordon Michael WIRAM

Serial No.: 09/777,722

Filed: February 5, 2001

For: POINT OF SALE SYSTEM

Art Unit: 3627

Examiner: Steven B. McAllister

Mail Stop Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 and is addressed to: Mail Stop Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 13, 2005, Express Mail Label No: EV272834591US,
by Bobbie-Jean Corbin
Bobbie-Jean Corbin

INTERVIEW SUMMARY, AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir/Madam:

Applicant hereby responds as follows to the Office
Action mailed on July 13, 2004:

Interview Summary: begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims: begin on page 3 of this
paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 16 of this paper.

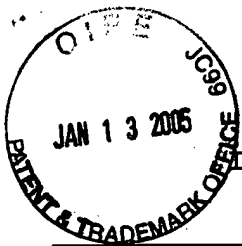
Response to January 14, 2004
Office Action

Appl. No. 09/777,722
Atty. Docket No. 57111-5098
Customer No. 24574

Interview Summary

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his courtesy during the interviews conducted on October 20 and 27, 2004. During the interviews, the Applicant and Examiner discussed the pending statutory subject matter rejections. The Examiner indicated that the pending claims would constitute statutory subject matter if they were amended to recite a computer having a computer readable medium with instructions stored thereon to provide the various features of Applicant's claimed point of sale system. The Examiner further indicated that to satisfy the written description requirement of 35 U.S. C. § 112, the claims should not recite whether the point of sale system functionality is resident at the server ("fat server-skinny client") or browser ("fat client-skinny server").

Applicant and Examiner also discussed the Examiner's drawing objections. Applicant identified for the Examiner the various drawings which depicted embodiments of the claim elements. As a result, the Examiner agreed to withdraw the drawing objections.



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Bobbie-Jean Corbin

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR INFORMATION UNDER 37

C.F.R. 1.105

I the undersigned, GORDON MICHAEL WIRAM, submit this supplemental response to the Examiner's requirement for information, which was included with the Office Action, dated July 13, 2004. I make this response on behalf of myself and on behalf of U-Haul International, Inc. ("U-Haul"), the assignee of the present application, and state as follows:

Supplemental Response to
Requirement for Information Under
37 C.F.R. 1.105.

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Appl. No. 09/777,722
Atty. Docket No. 57111-5098
Customer No. 24574

1. I am the inventor of the present invention and am employed by U-Haul. I am authorized to respond to the Examiner's requirement for information on behalf of U-Haul.

2. I have made a reasonable and diligent effort to obtain information responsive to the Examiner's requirement for information. Set forth below is the information which was obtained as a result of my efforts. The topics are organized in the order presented in the Requirement for Information.

3. The submission of this response is not intended as an admission that the information contained herein constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. U-Haul does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to remove as a competent reference any activities or publications that are determined to constitute prima facie prior art against the claims of the present application.

A. Did the System Have a Return Feature Having an Equipment Information Section That Prompts For Information Pertaining to the Equipment Being Returned and a Payment Section?

4. It is my understanding that the Examiner's reference to "the System" refers to the U-Haul PC-based Point of Sale ("POS") System described in the Response to the Requirement for Information Under 37 C.F.R. 1.105, dated April 14, 2004. Prior to February 5, 2000, a Personal Computer ("PC") based POS system was in use by U-Haul and certain U-Haul dealers. To my knowledge, although the system was implemented on personal

computers and/or computer networks, it was not connected or coupled to an internet server, and thus, was not available through the internet. It is also my understanding that this PC-based system included a return feature having an equipment information section that prompted for information pertaining to the equipment being returned. It also included a payment section.

5. The PC-based system was not directly used by U-Haul's customers. Instead, U-Haul, U-Haul owned and operated stores, or U-Haul's dealers would input information provided by customers into the system.

6. At no time prior to February 5, 2000 did U-Haul or U-Haul's dealers publicly use a point of sale system containing any of the presently claimed features which was coupled to an internet server or available via the internet.

B. Did the System Have a Closing Report Having a List of All Transactions Processed for a Specified Day and Including a Contract Number, a Method of Payment, an Amount Received and an Amount Refunded

7. It is my understanding that the U-Haul PC-Based POS system included a closing report having a list of transactions processed for a specific day and including a contract number, a method of payment, and an amount received and an amount refunded.

C. Did the System Have a Rental Feature Which
Displays the Rental Rate for the Equipment Identified?

9. To my knowledge, U-Haul's PC-based system did have a rental feature which displayed the rental rate for the equipment identified. However, as explained further in my Rule 132 Declaration, changes to the rental rate structure could not be quickly and uniformly made throughout the U-Haul system with the PC-Based POS system. As a result, dealers and rental centers frequently delayed updating their systems to reflect the rental prices dictated by the market.

D. Did the System Have a Rental Agreement Which
Includes the Terms of the Rental Transaction and an
Itemized List of Charges

10. It is my understanding that U-Haul's PC-Based System had a rental agreement which included the terms of the rental transaction and an itemized list of charges. However, dealers and rental centers which did not generate a contract were not able to view the contract for a returned vehicle if the pick-up location was elsewhere. As explained in my Rule 132 declaration, this enabled certain customers to obtain discounts for agreeing to return vehicles to specific locations, when in fact, they returned their vehicles elsewhere.

Dated: 1/12/2005

Gordon Michael Wiram
Gordon Michael Wiram